

ORE THE DIGGER NEWSPAPER

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Celebrating MLK

Benjamin Johnson
Staff Writer

"One tenet of Dr. King's movement is that we must work – in every direction, with every opportunity – to promote an understanding and celebration of egalitarian and humanitarian values. As students, every classroom we step foot in represents an opportunity to share these values with our colleagues; why would we want to take a day off?" Although school will be held on Martin Luther King Day (MLK Day), Zach Aman insists that there is a "contradiction in celebrating a life of service while 'taking a day off.'" The day that celebrates the respected visionary will be January 18, 2010; "The celebration has, historically, done a terrific job of bringing together students, staff, and faculty. In planning this year's celebration, we sought to continue that tradition while enhancing the breadth and depth of activities," said Aman.

The importance of King's life might escape

"I feel that we place tremendous and well-deserved value on Dr. King's movement."

many students, but the day devoted to paying tribute to him should be a time where people learn more about his accomplishments; "As engineers, we are trained to open our minds to see a problem or opportunity in multiple dimensions – Dr. King's philosophy advocated for this practice," explained Aman. MLK Day is an opportunity to not only advance an understanding of King and his life but to also celebrate diversity. One of the best places in the area to celebrate MLK Day is at the Colorado School of Mines (CSM), Aman said, "For the past few years, Mines has offered the only MLK celebration in Golden and one of the few on this side of Denver. I feel that we place tremendous and well-deserved value on Dr. King's movement."

CSM has been hosting a MLK Day celebration for nearly ten years, which has been organized by the President's Diversity Committee. In the past, "The faculty and staff are invited to a breakfast and free birthday cake is provided in the Student Center during lunch," said Aman. In recent years, the celebration has grown to include "speakers, poets, artists, and musicians [who] take the stage to express

the significance of Dr. King's movement while students socialize and enjoy free food," said Aman.

This upcoming year's celebration will take place throughout the entire week and will include many opportunities for students and faculty to participate. MLK Day itself will include "a planned exhibition in the Student Center, where students, staff and faculty are invited to enjoy free food and a variety of inclusive activities. We are also planning to bring a slam poetry group to the evening celebration," said Aman. After Monday's activities, there will be an emphasis on celebrating diversity. "We are coordinating a variety of exciting and fascinating speakers for luncheon dialogues that will be hosted by the Diversity Committee; we are planning to announce these individuals and their sessions as we approach the event. Finally, we are proud

to announce a 'Celebration of the Movement' on Thursday evening. [Thursday, January 21, 2010] At this celebration, stu-

dents are invited to 'jump in' and enjoy free food and music by a Mines DJ; we are also planning to bring in a few surprises, such as a step team," said Aman.

Students who are looking to get involved have an opportunity that begins this semester. Aman said that "in the next week, we will be announcing the 'Find Your Voice Creative Contest,' where students are asked to creatively express the impact of Dr. King's movement on their lives; responses may be submitted in virtually any artistic medium (e.g., poetry, essays, art, or music). Submissions will be due by 5 PM on MLK Day and the winner will be announced at Thursday's 'Celebration of the Movement.' The winner will receive a 15.6" laptop computer, with an AMD Athlon processor, 2 GB RAM, DVD burner, and a 64-bit edition of Windows 7 Home Premium." For people who want to get involved with volunteering during the week of the MLK celebration, Aman said, "In planning these events, our theme has been 'Find Your Voice.' Along those lines, we are coordinating with ASCSM's *Into the Streets* to provide volunteer opportunities for event participants."



TIM WEILERT / OREDIGGER

The CSM choir, band, and orchestra had their holiday concert Thursday night. See page 6.

ASCSM addresses permit parking at City Council meeting

Dan Baker
Graduate Students Association President

On November 20, the Associated Students of the Colorado School of Mines (ASCSM) was informed that at some time, the Golden City Council would be deciding on a proposal to impose resident-only parking restrictions in the neighborhoods surrounding the Colorado School of Mines campus. On December 2, ASCSM was informed that the matter would be discussed at the December 3 City Council meeting.

An email was promptly sent out by Jaime Thorpe, the ASCSM president. Among other things, it said, "The Golden Historic Neighborhoods Association (GHNA) has proposed a resident-only parking plan in the adjacent neighborhoods to the north and south of the Mines campus." At the same time, ASCSM vice president Ashley Young and others drafted a resolution to be presented at the next ASCSM meeting and a petition to be circulated on campus.

Both the resolution and the petition contained three requests. First, that the GHNA proposal not be implemented until June so that two more parking lots could be constructed. Second, that the sides of the streets adjoining campus buildings be exempt from the parking restric-

tions. Finally, that bad parking in the affected areas be addressed with increased enforcement. At seven o'clock, both the city council and ASCSM meetings began.

Young and several other ASCSM representatives attended the city council meeting on behalf of the student body. Before the GHNA proposal was addressed at the city council meeting, ASCSM members in attendance received a message informing them that the resolution, saying essentially the same thing as the petition, had passed.

When the GHNA proposal came to the floor at the city council meeting, Tom Atkins, president of the Golden Historic Neighborhoods Association, was the first to speak. "The reasons for the problems that we have are clear," he explained. "It is Colorado School of Mines vehicles students, staff, and faculty parking in the neighborhood streets. It is because neither CSM nor the city of Golden has implemented an effective parking management plan, either on campus or off campus that is designed to deal with this."

Atkins then summarized, "Our purpose here is not just to push this problem to another neighborhood or to downtown. All of us are affected by this problem, and we share the problem. Our purpose is to push this problem back onto the campus where it belongs."

Atkins explained that the GHNA was asking for three things. They

wanted the city to "design and implement a permit parking system for the neighborhoods described in our proposal." He also said that they want "a comprehensive study of the parking needs and conditions to develop a selection of alternatives and guidelines for dealing with these problems in the future." Lastly, they wanted to "make sure that CSM does the same, that they work with the city and the neighborhoods on the impacts of their long term plan."

Atkins then shifted topics and expressed concern about a process in which "pretty soon homes become rentals and then become targets of acquisition, and then we lose whole neighborhoods."

Other residents told their tales of inconveniences and woes they have faced with students parking in their neighborhoods and expressed concern that Mines had made promises before and the matter had been put off too long.

Young spoke on behalf of students, saying, "We want you to know that we do understand where you're coming from, and we recognize that there is a very difficult parking problem on campus and around the campus at the Colorado School of Mines...We're here to ask that you will work with us to develop a parking plan that is beneficial to all."

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Scientific discoveries this week

Brookings, SD: New analysis of ice core data indicates that a previously-unknown volcanic eruption helped make the 1810s the coldest decade of the last 500 years. Scientists had long known about a volcanic eruption in 1815; however, new data indicates that another eruption in an unpopulated region of the tropics may have affected temperatures even more. The combination of the two eruptions helped to make an extremely cold 1816 "the year without a summer."

Paris, France: It is a well-known phenomenon that Uranus spins on an extremely tilted axis compared to the rest of the solar system. However, until recently, scientists didn't have a good idea as to why this occurs. A new model from French astronomers suggests that Uranus may have once had an extremely massive moon, causing this odd tilt. Although the massive moon would explain the tilt, there is no evidence for it outside of the model.

New Orleans, LA: New research suggests that vitamin D deficiency makes it extremely difficult for patients to fight off lymphoma. In a study conducted over the past 3 years, scientists found that lymphoma patients with vitamin D deficiencies were twice as likely to die from the disease as those with adequate vitamin D levels. Although scientists hope this will help the treatment of lymphoma, the link between the vitamin deficiency and the disease is unclear.

Rehovot, Israel: An international team of astrophysicists has, for the first time, observed the explosion of a star over 150 times the size of our Sun. The team tracked a supernova for a year and a half and found that the actual explosion mimicked what theoretical models predict. These models had been created decades ago, but this is the first time such a large supernova had been observed. With this new analysis, scientists better understand how super-massive stars are formed and destroyed.

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Headlines from around the world

Emily Trudell, Staff Writer

Former NBC News anchor **Tom Brokaw** and his wife Meredith were involved, but not at fault, in a fatal three car accident Friday. The accident occurred after an SUV swerved to avoid a spool of cables in the road; the driver of the SUV was expelled from her car and was killed.

President **Obama's approval rating** dropped to the lowest level it has been, falling to 48 percent, according to a CNN poll. This was a drop of seven percentage points from the previous month.

Amanda Knox and her boyfriend Raffaele Sollecito were convicted of the brutal stabbing and murder of roommate **Meredith Kercher** by an Italian jury. Knox was sentenced to 26 years in prison, while Sollecito was sentenced to 25. The two must also pay a combined amount of \$7.4 million to the victim's family and \$60,000 to a man who Knox accused of the crime.

At least 112 people were killed in a **fireworks explosion** in a Russian disco nightclub. At least 134 more were injured and 85 are in critical condition. Russian police cited unsanctioned and misuse of fireworks in an initial statement, and five are being held for questioning, including the owners and manager of the nightclub.

The Indian capital of **New Delhi** launched a campaign

discouraging urinating, spitting, and littering in public locations, debuting billboards, and TV and radio commercials. Though the offenses are already punishable with a ten dollar fine, it is still a common practice in New Delhi.

Mexican authorities freed at least 107 **slave laborers**, from a house for slave labor disguised as a drug rehabilitation center. The victims ranged from age 14 to 70, had been severely beaten, and some had suffered from sexual assault. Twenty-three were arrested during the raid.

An explosion during **South Korean weapons testing** of a shell for a 155 mm gun killed one and injured five more.

An Indonesian man suspected of s m u g -

gling 10 **rare kangaroos** from their native habitat faces five years in jail, and an \$11,000 fine if convicted of breaking Indonesian conservation laws. Five kangaroos had died by the time they were discovered.

Corus Steelmakers announced that they will be cutting their Teesside Cast Products factory, thus leaving 1,700 workers jobless, due to a decrease in the demand for steel during the current economic depression.

The Namibian President **Hifikepunye Pohamba** won election for his second term with a plurality of 76.4 percent. However, eight of the political parties that participated in the vote pledge to contest the outcome in court, saying that it was fixed.



Local News

Both the men's and women's CSM soccer teams won National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) College Team Academic Awards. The Oredigger men had a cumulative grade point average of 3.25 and the Oredigger women had a cumulative grade point average of 3.29.

Stewart A. Bliss and Mohan S. Misra were appointed by Gov. Bill Ritter to the governing board of Colorado School of Mines with terms running Jan. 1, 2010, through Dec. 31, 2013.

As part of the Department of Energy's investments in the exploration and development of new geothermal fields and research into advanced geothermal technologies, U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu recently announced awards for 123 projects in 39 states. A total of \$2,296,394 was given to three projects at Colorado School of Mines.

Three bioscience companies licensed with Colorado School of Mines have been awarded funding by the Bioscience Discovery Evaluation Grant Program (BDEGP) through the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade.

The Colorado School of Mines women's basketball team won its third straight game on Saturday evening at Lockridge Arena defeating Mesa State by a score of 70-53. The Orediggers shot 51.0 % from the field marking the third consecutive game in which they have shot at least 50.0 % from the field.

Golden releases circulator bus feasibility study

Ian Littman
Asst. Business Manager, Web Content

On November 30th the City of Golden disseminated a feasibility study report on the upcoming circulator bus program, slated to be launched in 2013. The report is the culmination of focus groups from the City of Golden, Jefferson County, the Golden Downtown Merchants Association, the Golden Urban Renewal Authority and CSM, and suggests that the service be deployed with fifteen minute "headways" (time between successive buses at a given location) and offered at no charge to riders.

Certain aspects of the program are still under consideration, the greatest of which is the route length of the shuttle. According to the report, "The first route alternative (G-1)...links the LRT station with Jefferson County Human Services

building, travels past the Splash pool and Fossil Trace Golf Course before linking in with Illinois Street up to 19th. After crossing 19th, service runs through the CSM Campus to 11th Street in downtown Golden where it provides a connection with the pedestrian bridge across Clear Creek to the library, ball fields and community center on 10th Street. The service turns right on Washington to run through downtown Golden and then left on 14th to Jackson Street up to the High School. The service then follows 24th back to Illinois and returns via Illinois to the Jefferson County campus and LRT station."

This route would require two buses, traverses roughly six miles, would have a total trip time of about 23 minutes and would have around ten stops. The cost of G-1, with 15-minute headways, would be \$481,000 per year, or \$2.80 per rider per day assuming the low end of the study's

estimated 470-750 daily riders.

The second proposed route, or G-2, diverges from G-1 at Golden's High School, continuing on South Golden Road until King Soopers, then turns right on Ulysses, then right on 10th St, traveling through the Jefferson County campus to reach the LRT station. This route would add one mile, three to five minutes and three stops relative to G-1. Due to the longer loop length, a bi-directional loop, with three buses per direction, is recommended, assuming 15-minute headways. The rider estimates on this route fall between 770 and 1200 per day, yielding a per-rider per-day cost of \$5.14 on the high end, with a total yearly cost for the route at \$1,445,400, assuming that three percent of the overall Mines population, plus ten percent of those living on-campus or in Mines Park, would utilize the service. Mines constituents preferred the longer route and longer hours over G-1, with preference shown to an additional stop at Canyon Point and Mines Park apartments during the afternoon hours. Though G-2 does not include these stops, the report leaves the door open to both these changes and expansion from G-1 to G-2 as conditions require if G-1 were to be used at first.

Extending headway time to twenty minutes cuts the need for two buses on this route, bringing costs down to \$963,000 per year. This cut-back, however, puts G-2 out of sync with the Light Rail service, which will operate at 30-minute intervals out of Golden. Costs are based on twelve-hour-per-day service starting in the early morning, with a per-hour per-bus cost of

\$55; other city shuttles have overall costs of around \$50 per bus-hour, while RTD's local route costs are nearer \$60. Thirty-minute headways were also considered for the circulator bus, however ridership estimates were well below half those of a fifteen-minute-headway service, though this measure would cut the number of buses in use for the G-1 route to one. Thirty-minute headways on route G-2 would require the same bus count as twenty-minute headways. The report noted that RTD preferred route G-1 with 30-minute headways.

To enable quicker round-trip times regardless of route choice, a plan is in place to convert the city's right-of-way along the pedestrian trail behind Fossil Trace golf course into a bus-only lane. The estimated cost of this conversion, which would provide a more direct route between the County Administration Complex and Illinois Street, is \$239,000.

The focus groups leading up to the report produced some interesting data, which was included in the report. The majority of those surveyed said they would ride the circulator bus one to two times per day, and wanted downtown Golden as a stop destination. According to the survey, peak ridership would be in the morning and afternoon hours, and respondents were willing to wait

5-10 extra minutes and pay 50¢ to \$1.00 per ride for the service. The report also noted that current RTD routes through Golden are underutilized, with the vast majority of survey respondents using private vehicles for transit. With regard to Mines students, according to the feasibility study 47% of students picked up an RTD bus pass in 2009 but have not used it, and pinned the Student Center as the preferred stopping point for the circulator bus at Mines.

One possibly controversial factor for the circulator's implementation is parking availability. According to the report, "Reductions in parking supply in downtown areas can be a key strategy in ensuring transit ridership." The feasibility study report continues, "If it is the intent of the city to encourage transit, bike and pedestrian movement, then a general philosophy toward limited parking availability will make that more likely in the long-run."

The report, which can be found at www.oredig.us/f, concludes on a positive note. "The planning process, analysis of ridership potential, and routing assessment all indicate that a transit circulator operation linking the Jefferson County Administration Building light rail station with Colorado School of Mines, downtown Golden and other community destinations is feasible."

Parking issues addressed in Golden

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Young then touched on the requests brought forward in the petition and resolution, saying, "We ask that any implementation of a parking plan be delayed until June of 2010 to allow for the student body to be informed... if it is implemented next semester we will not have the time to rectify the problem of parking at the School of Mines." She closed by saying that she had over 500 signatures showing that the students were behind ASCSM's stance.

After all the speaking was done, the members of city council gave their replies.

Marjorie Sloan said, "It's time to do something about it." She also praised ASCSM's quick response to the matter.

Karen Oxman explained, "This is not a new problem, but it has exacerbated and been terribly frustrating for all the residents." She then suggested solutions like

a circulator between Mines Park and campus and freshmen without cars. She also asked how Mines could "build all these beautiful playing fields and not account for the fact that people that come to these playing fields have no place to park."

William Fisher's opinion was to "get this started. Let's do this now, and then we'll continue to make this better."

Golden Mayor Jacob Smith explained that the first time this issue came around the council looked around for alternatives to permit parking and found none. He acknowledged, "It's time." He also expressed the need for better communication with students and a willingness to work with students to get that done.

In the end, the city agreed that it was prudent to implement the parking restrictions but it also decided that students should be an active part of deciding how and when to implement them.



ALEC WESTERMAN / OREDIGGER

The Golden City Council discussed proposed solutions to the parking problem at the meeting this week. Three separate opinions can be found on page 10.

For Rent: a beautiful neighborhood on a nice golf course, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, attached 2 car garage, washer & dryer, off 36th and Sheridan. For more info, call 719-550-3988.



COURTESY CITY OF GOLDEN

An image rendering of the proposed link between Illinois Street and the Jefferson County administration offices behind the Fossil Trace golf course.

Tips for winter weather

Hello Mines Community! We have already had a few touches of snow to get us thinking about even colder temperatures as "Old Man Winter" really settles in. Here are a few thoughts that might help ease the colder months...

Footwear:

Contrary to popular belief, Flip-flops aren't really the most ideal footwear when it is snowing and during freezing temperatures. I've seen a bunch of people wearing flip-flops and just wonder, as do my colleagues, "What in the world are they thinking? It's freezin' cold out here."

The solution would be to:

Stay inside, don't go to class, get into six pack and watch it snow.

Wear the flip-flops, risk freezing an appendage, slip and hurt yourself.

Get a good pair of winter boots and wear them during inclement weather.

The correct answer is C. A good pair of winter boots is your best friend in bad weather; they'll keep your feet warm and dry and prevent slips. I know many of you are on limited budgets so my suggestion would be to check the thrift stores for bargains if you

can't afford a new pair.

Outer wear:

Try to dress in layers. For some this may be misconstrued as wearing multiple tee shirts at once, multiple layers of flip-flops are hard to walk on so I'd stay away from that. Anyway, growing up in Colorado I remember my mom always telling me to "dress in layers", yeah, like she knows what she's talking about! Right? However, after a few short years of being on the cold side it was time to try it:

Base layer: Something that wicks the moisture away from your body. Much advancement has been made in over the last decade, like under armor.

Next: Long sleeve tee-shirt or equivalent.

Over that: Sweat shirt or equivalent.

Top layer: Hoodie or equivalent

Outer layer: Something that might be water resistant to repellant.

By now you might be feeling like the "Sta-Puff Marshmallow Man", although, the layers come off as easily as they go on. When you heat up peel off a layer until you are comfortable.

Work the lower leg area the

same as the upper layer and you'll be a step ahead of "Old Man Winter".

Hats:

Have something to protect your ears and head, as you lose most of your body heat through the head area. For those of you who are follicle challenged, or bald like me, this is especially important. It's kind of like the American Express Card, ya "Don't leave home with out it".

Gloves: Something to place over your hands to keep them mitts warm as well.

Walking about Campus:

Try to watch out for icy spots on sidewalks and parking lots. We in the Grounds shop, Custodial Services and General Maintenance, are on constant look out for icy areas around campus. We do our utmost to ensure everyone's safety, however there are occasions where keeping an eye out for ice will ensure your safety, while wearing the good pair of boots you put on your feet.

These are just a few ideas which might make your stay here in Colorado more pleasant during the winter months. Stay warm and safe.

Sincerely,
Jerry Solt



For Immediate Release – November 23, 2009

Credit Union of Colorado Announces Winner of Ski Package Sweepstakes
Joanna Graves wins pair of Icelantic skis, bindings and Columbia outdoor wear as part of a promotion with Colorado Ski Country USA



Joanna Graves shows off her new ski gear, including Icelantic skis and Columbia ski coat, presented by Vickie Johns, Golden office branch manager for Credit Union of Colorado.

DENVER — Joanna Graves, a 19-year-old Colorado School of Mines student from Golden, Colo., won a ski package sweepstakes held by the Credit Union of Colorado in partnership with Colorado Ski Country USA (CSUSA).

Graves received a new pair of Icelantic Pilgrim Series skis, hand-made in Colorado, along with bindings, valued at more than \$1,000. As part of the package, Graves also received a Columbia Titanium ski coat and water resistant vest to stay warm on the slopes.

"I really needed some new gear for the ski season!" said Graves. "I can't wait to try it out on the slopes."

Credit Union of Colorado is an official partner for the 2009/2010 ski season for two of CSCUSA's most popular programs – the Gems card, which provides discounts to nine of Colorado's smaller resorts, and the 5th and 6th Grade Passport Program, which provides free skiing for 5th graders and inexpensive access for 6th graders to skiing and snowboarding.



The new MacBook: great, but no Firewire

Ian Littman
Tech Break Columnist

I recently had the opportunity to try out Apple's newest MacBook, courtesy the Mines Bookstore, which sells the machine for \$949. Bottom line? Great computer, but no FireWire.

The first thing that stands out on the computer is the design, particularly when comparing it to the older MacBooks. Everything is rounded, and thanks to the computer's unibody construction, the thing feels rock-solid. One beef though, the grippy rubberized underside of the computer gets dirty nearly as quickly as the rubber feet on previous-generation MacBooks (i.e., quickly). Also, there's no FireWire.

The new MacBook's screen is absolutely astounding. Blacks are dark and colors are bright thanks to the LED backlighting (now standard for all Apple displays). If you want to use an external display you can hook up a 30-inch model, provided you pay \$100 for the appropriate adapter. Smaller displays can be run with a mere \$29 mini DisplayPort adapter. Also new, the palm rests on the new MacBook

are now glossy plastic rather than softer-touch material. On the plus side, this means that ground-in dirt no longer has the opportunity to turn white into off-white in the palm rest area. The negative is that the new MacBook looks like more of a toy than the old one.

Performance on the system was great, as it should be for any new computer. The latest MacBook shares the guts of the low-end MacBook Pro to a great extent, complete with 1067MHz DDR3 RAM and the rather powerful integrated nVidia GeForce 9400M graphics chip. Apple's base model laptop actually offers a larger hard drive than its more expensive aluminum brother, which also means the disk will run marginally faster (due to higher aerial density). One disadvantage - no FireWire.

Battery life hangs around the advertised seven hours, as long as you're not listening to music over the built-in relatively high-quality speakers or watching videos. If you are doing those things, look for a battery life closer to four or five hours, which is still respectable for these tasks. For light web surfing with WiFi off, you are looking

at eight-plus hours. For its price, the MacBook offers the best battery life out there for a notebook with standard (not painfully-slow) components. That said, the battery is not user-replaceable, so seven hours off an outlet equals a dead computer. Also, there is no FireWire.

In sum, the MacBook would be an unequivocally great buy if it had FireWire. As it stands, the computer is solid in every way. However, Apple thought it wise to forcibly differentiate its products by removing FireWire from its low-end notebook model, forcing "prosumers" (or anyone who wants to stream high-quality video from a real video camera) to shell out another \$200 for a computer sporting very few advantages over the white MacBook. Hopefully Apple will reverse this decision, since many computers well under their \$1000 price point still include an IEEE 1394 port. For now, anyone wanting a solid computer who doesn't need the high-quality external interface that FireWire provides... and has \$1000 to spend on a computer... need look no further than the new MacBook. Others should keep looking.

Research finds flaws with California's HOV-lane policy

Jake Rezac
Content Manager

In 2005, California implemented a policy which would allow some hybrid vehicles to drive in carpool lanes. While lawmakers hoped this law would increase the usage of hybrid vehicles and decrease greenhouse gas emissions, some groups worried this law would negatively effect carpool lane traffic flow and discourage people from carpooling. Dr. Daniel Kaffine, an Assistant Professor in the Economics and Business

"We have an 8%-15% increase in the HOV lane during the morning peak. We don't really see a difference in the main-line... we're finding a small jump in the morning travel time in the HOV lane and a small jump in the evening travel time... everything else remained the same."

"Did the policy do that it set out to do? Does this policy lower greenhouse gases?"

Kaffine and his team believe that the policy was not effective in getting people to buy more hybrids.

"One reason that this policy might not have an effect in getting people to buy hybrids is



Department at Mines, gave a seminar on the analysis he and his team performed on this policy.

"We've been looking at a policy that California implemented in 2005 that allowed hybrid vehicles to be exempt from normal car-lane rules," Kaffine explained of his work, continuing, "California owners of hybrid vehicles that get 45 miles per gallon or better... would be allowed to drive in the HOV lane, regardless of the number of occupants." Honda's hybrid Civic and Insight are the only cars which uphold these conditions.

Kaffine's team looked at a number of questions related to the efficacy of this law. "Did this policy make anyone go out and buy a hybrid?" Kaffine asked. "Did the policy do what it set out to do? Does this policy lower greenhouse gases?"

By examining raw traffic flow data on interstate 10, Kaffine and his team were able to reach a number of conclusions about the law.

that 15,000 hybrids were already around... there's just not that much incentive from the policy for people to go and buy hybrids," he explained. He explained further that only hybrid owners benefited from the law change. "There was a lot more loss for carpoolers than gain for hybrid owners." In particular, the gain the team calculated for hybrid owners was between \$431 and \$466 per year per person,

while the loss to carpoolers was \$145-\$230 per year per person. "There were large benefits to individual hybrid owners and large collective losses to carpoolers, but small losses individually."

Finally, CO₂ output actually increased. "The yearly increase in CO₂ from induced non-hybrids was 1584-238 tons." This, however, is small compared to congestion costs.

Kaffine ended his talk by indicating that the policy may have failed in its aims. "Car-poolers pay the price. We may have increased greenhouse gasses by implementing this policy."

Former CSM student returns as professor

Benjamin Johnson
Staff Writer

As a former Colorado School of Mines (CSM) student, Tracy Gardner can relate to students like few other professors can manage. Gardner received her Master's degree in Chemical Engineering from CSM before heading to CU for her PhD in the same field. Following the completion of her doctorate degree, Gardner traveled to the Netherlands where she performed post-doc work at TU Delft. The small school atmosphere that drew her to CSM originally brought Gardner back to her alma mater where she currently teaches courses in the chemical engineering department.

While Gardner's main position at the university is as a lecturer and her main passion is teaching, she also works diligently on various research projects. Unlike many professors who obtain funding from the university and other outside foundations, most of Gardner's research is funded by companies or researchers at other universities. Pedagogy, the study of teaching methods, has recently been a topic of study for Gardner while research on catalytic membrane reactors has consistently been her main focus. Gardner described her work on catalytic membrane reactors as using "inorganic materials to perform reactions and separation at the same time." The best part of the research is "seeing how fundamental models that come from micro-scale analyses can be used to accurately predict macro-scale properties," said Gardner. The goal she has set for her research is to "develop a fundamental, unified model of transport and reaction that can be applied to any type of membrane or catalytic membrane reactor."

A favorable attribute of CSM in Gardner's opinion is that the university can maintain a small-school feel while being a prominent research institution. Although the undergraduate student population has grown significantly since the time that Gardner attended, she still believes that students have a tremendous opportunity to be able to

cate with professors one-on-one. In the future, Gardner would like to see the class sizes get even smaller, she said, "As a teacher, I would rather teach more sections and have the class sizes decreased."

Outside of the school environment, Gardner is very active and enjoys snowboarding, playing racquetball, watching football, playing Dance Dance Revolution, and working out. Her favorite way to spend time, however, is to play with her kids, one who is fourteen months old and the other who is almost five years old. Family has always been an extremely important facet of Gardner's life and was the main reason that she moved back to Colorado after her post-doc work, although she had an opportunity to stay in the Netherlands. Gardner met her husband at CSM and they were

Most of Gardner's research is funded by companies or researchers at other universities.

later married at the Coolbaugh house. A perhaps little known fact outside of the chemical engineering department is that John Persichetti, who is also a teacher in chemical engineering, is Gardner's brother-in-law.

One of Gardner's more peculiar hobbies is collecting cars and she has amassed over two hundred of the miniature replicas. The Princess Bride is Gardner's favorite movie; she said it is "hilarious, the characters are great, it's a classic, and it is very easy to quote." Gardner described Life of Pi, her favorite book, as fantastic because it "tells a fascinating story; you don't know what it is until the very end. It makes you think and it is a great book for discussions."

As a final thought, Gardner wants students to "do what you love and love what you do. If you don't enjoy what you do every day, life will be much less fun." Secondly, she wants students "to take responsibility for your own life. It's liberating to live that way - you can then take control and change things when they aren't going the way you'd like them to, and you can take credit when they are! We here are all among the highly privileged, for sure, but to a certain extent you also make your own luck. Choose well."



BENJAMIN JOHNSON / OREDIGGER

Geek of the Week

...Khris Clymer, Senior; Metallurgical and Materials Engineering

Daniel Haughey
Staff Writer

Do you consider yourself a geek?

I'm Geek of the Week. Does it matter?

How did you come to be at Mines?

I transferred in from Pennsylvania. I wanted to know what it would be like to be surrounded by engineers all the time, so I came here. It's not as exciting as I thought it would be.

What is your favorite geeky pick up line?

Baby, you make my floppy disk turn into a hard drive. (I really hope you print that).

What is the geekiest thing you have seen or done?

I dressed up as Link and my girlfriend dressed up as Princess Zelda for Halloween last year. We got professional photos done, too. I get made fun of a lot for that one.

What is your favorite geek joke?

There are 10 types of people in the world... those who understand binary, and those who don't.

Star Wars or Star Trek? Why?

It completely depends on my mood. Do I want to fantasize about Princess Leia or Captain Janeway,

you know?

What are your hobbies?

Nothing too geeky actually. I like rock climbing and hiking. My geekiest hobby would probably be playing video games, but I'm not even into WoW or anything, so I don't know why I'm here.

What is the geekiest thing you own?

I have a MarioKart t-shirt. It has the flying spikey blue shell on it. It's sketched in sort of a Da Vinci style.

What has been your favorite class at Mines?

Science in Literature. You pretty much get to read Sci-Fi books.

Who is your role model and why?

Definitely Michael Liu. He's a current undergrad in MME. Why? He owns every video game that's out right now. I'm pretty sure all he does is play video games. That is the inspiration in my life right now.

What is your favorite OS? Why?

OS X. Because it's hip and trendy and cool and flashy and pretentious

and people that don't know computers hate it.

What is your favorite formula and why?

E=mc², because it's the only one I've never actually had to use.

If you were to come up with a class for CSM what would it be?

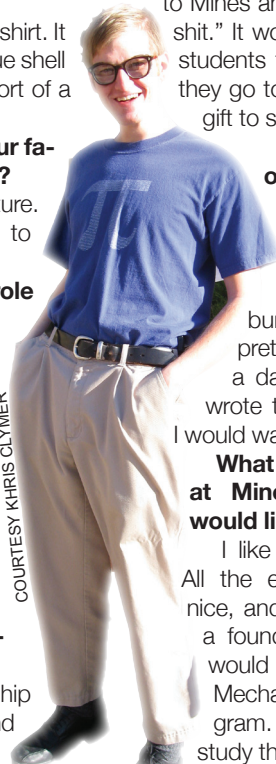
It would be called "How to go to Mines and not think you are the shit." It would basically be for the students that think that because they go to Mines, they are God's gift to science.

If you could be anyone else, who would you be?

Forever or for a day? Forever, I'd probably be the Pillsbury doughboy. He seems pretty easy to please. For a day I would be whoever wrote the Twilight books, and I would walk into oncoming traffic.

What is one thing you love at Mines? One thing you would like to see changed?

I like the MME department. All the equipment we have is nice, and the fact that we have a foundry is cool. Change? I would probably get rid of the Mechanical Engineering program. Does anybody even study that anymore?



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The CSM band, orchestra and choir performed their holiday concert on Friday, December 4. At the concert, students musical talents were showcased, three graduating seniors were recognized, and the low brass section branched out with dancing.

ALL PHOTOS TIM WEILERT / OREDIGGER



Wheat beer brewers go head to head

Kevin Lock
Staff Writer

This week I would like to highlight two beers, one of which I highly suggest, despite the price, and the other I don't suggest unless the price drops at least three dollars. The good one is Boulevard Brewing Company's "Saison-Brett," a limited-release ale where only 13,400 bottles were made. This brew is made in Kansas City, Missouri and is a very tasty, complex beer which is fairly light and easy to drink, but at \$13.29 for a 750ml bottle, it is very pricey and only one for special occasions. However, for the price, I must say that I would buy Saison-Brett any day over the very disappointing Bud Light Wheat, which is upwards of \$8 for a 6-pack.

Bud Light Wheat is supposed to be a light wheat beer with lots a flavor and for the price, Budweiser apparently believes that it is good enough to compete with just about any microbrew out there. This beer starts well with a strong wheat flavor up front, but then it just peters out and finishes like a normal Bud Light. If I either become obsessive about my caloric intake (in which case I'll drink MGD 64) or the price of this beer drops to something reasonable, like \$5, I will most likely not purchase this beer again. For the price and for your enjoyment, I highly recommend skipping over this beer and moving onto a real wheat beer from your favorite mi-

crobrewery, which most likely will also be less expensive than the Bud Light Wheat and it would also be much more enjoyable.

In the other corner is Saison-Brett from Boulevard Brewing, which is very enjoyable, albeit expensive. If you ever feel the need to splurge on a beer, I would highly recommend this one, no matter what kind of beer you generally drink. I feel that this one has flavors that will appeal to any palette. With earthy scent and hints of honey and hops, this beer has a very pleasant aroma. When poured, it has a milky, amber color and is lively carbonated with a medium head. As you drink, it quickly becomes apparent that there are more flavors than your average beer. Saison-Brett has a very smooth mouth feel which is full a flavor, from earthy malts to slightly bitter hops and an almost apple flavored finish.

Saison beer styles usually get classified as summer beers, which are refreshing and easy to drink ales. I would say that Boulevard Brewing hit the nail on the head here. They were able to create a beer with those characteristics without losing any depth of flavor and character. This beer is part of the Smokestack Se-

ries, a line of specialty beers that, according to Boulevard's website, "Have been carefully nurtured and refined through countless test brews over many years." I would say that I definitely agree with that statement after tasting the Saison. In the series, there are three other beers, all of which I am sure would be delicious; a double, triple, and quadruple. This means that they use progressively less water in the mix as they brew (for a double, 1/3 for a triple, and for a quadruple).

I believe that a fellow taster summed up these two beers better than I ever could, "The Saison-Brett is one of the better beers I have had, it reminds me of a good European brew and it is about time. As for that Bud Light Wheat, I do not mind if I never have to drink it again, it's more disappointing than when I got stood up at prom and had to pose for pictures alone!"



Nostalgic trip with old Wilco album

Tim Weillert
Content Manager

As the decade draws to a close, music reviewers have taken to making lists of the best and most influential albums of the 00's. With this in mind, rather than reviewing a new release this week I thought it would be fitting to talk about one of my personal favorites, Wilco's 2002 record *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot*.

Recorded at a time when Wilco was on the verge of going big, *Foxtrot* almost didn't happen. The arduous experience of recording and dealing with record labels and line-up changes was documented in a feature-length documentary from Sam Jones titled *I Am Trying To Break Your Heart*. Eventually, however, the record saw the light of day and has remained a staple in the Wilco catalogue.

From the opening track, "I Am Trying To Break Your Heart," Jeff Tweedy & Co. set the foundations for the entire record. A combination of Wilco's "wall of sound" recording techniques and Tweedy's subtle, yet strong, vocals establish the overriding themes that carry throughout the rest of the album.

From the start *Foxtrot* ebbs and flows. While "Kamera" is an upbeat

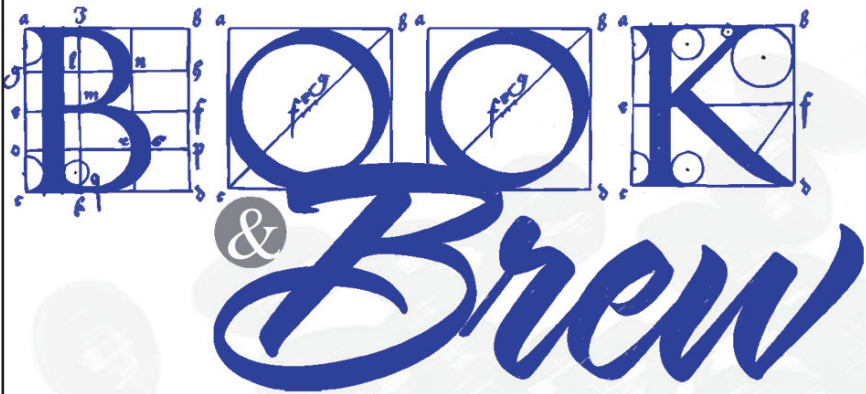
pop song, "Radio Cures" quickly drops down to more introspective lyrics and melodies, picking back up on the single "War on War." I could continue giving play-by-plays of each track, but that would be long and wordy, so here are the highlights.

"Ashes of American Flags" is a great slow burner, "Heavy Metal Drummer" will inevitably get stuck in your head (it is just that catchy), and the closer "Reservations" is hauntingly beautiful (it will give you goose-bumps).

Perhaps what sets *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot* apart from most albums made during the last 10 years is that it has incredible replay value. Each time I listen to this record I find something new that I had not noticed on previous listening. Furthermore, the lyrical themes have remained relevant and possess a rare timelessness.



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ORC promotes avalanche awareness

Jared Walters
Staff Writer

Through the holiday season, the Outdoor Recreation Center (ORC) will be providing several classes on avalanche awareness and avalanche training followed by a back country skiing and riding hut trip at the end of winter break.

The first event was an avalanche awareness class which took place last Friday, December 4. The class was a basic presentation by a speaker from the Alpine Rescue team here in CO. According to Andrew Padilla, the ORC intern for the year, "The awareness class is a little presentation just to learn about avalanches and what's going on, It's just an in class presentation."

Padilla said, "The next step

would be Avy [or avalanche] 1 course, which costs a little more money but it goes above the awareness." He continued, "You will be outside skiing and actually testing the snow." The Avy 1 course will be taught by Colorado Mountain School up in Boulder this Tuesday, December 8.

The next course for those interested in back country skiing is the avalanche beacon training class. "Those things are pretty finicky, and take some work to figure out and use well," Padilla commented. He believed, "Every skier in the back country should wear one, and snowmobilers should too." An avalanche beacon basically sends out a signal from those trapped in an avalanche. If the person trapped has partners who have a beacon as well, they can use it to search you out and

rescue you. Padilla stated, "We will actually go out into the field and bury a few of the beacons in the snow, and let the students try to locate them."

"That all leads to the back country hut trip at the end of winter break," Padilla summed. He spoke about the hut, "It's a back country hut up by Vail with full heat, showers, flushing toilets, stove, and oven. It's a two mile walk in to the hut and another two mile walk to where we ski. It's some pretty good back country skiing with not many people around." The trip will rent out a whole hut which holds 9-12 people. Padilla commented, "We want to get 12 people to go and have some fun skiing back country."

For more information about these and other trips and classes, contact the ORC.

Women's basketball starts off with a bang

Chris Navrides
Staff Writer

The Mines Women's Basketball team is getting off to a good start this year, sporting a 2-0 record in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (RMAC) and a 3-2 record in non-conference play. After a record of 19-11 in the 08-09 season in which the Orediggers placed first in the RMAC East Division, the team hopes to have another great season.

Leading the team for the 7th year is Coach Paula Krueger. Krueger came to CSM from Northern State University, a division 2 school in South Dakota. She says that the team has "seen a lot of growth." She explained further that, "[It is] motivational to see others do well." The ultimate goal of Krueger and her team is to take a "run at the conference title." Helping her achieve this goal are returning starters seniors Emily Dalton and Savannah Afoa as well as junior Brecca Gaffney. Senior Kelsey Crist is out due to injury but is slated to return in January.

Krueger has high praise for her team; "They represent this institution with such class." The team will be sporting a new style of play this year. Krueger explained they will

"cut back on the number of sets and play a faster style."

Krueger described the team's pregame ritual for taking on rivals. The ritual involves "some chanting and dancing" as well as listening to Greek music. After the game, they "gather on half court and along with the fans and sing the school theme song."

To Krueger a "huge part of athletics is the students in the stands." Krueger thanks the crowd each week for their support. To help promote attendance at games, free t-shirts are often given away. Furthermore, there is a Think Pink night to promote breast cancer awareness and promotions such as free Jimmy John's sandwiches.

If you haven't been following the team, now is a great time to start. Tickets are free for CSM students, faculty, and staff, and only \$7 dollars for adults. Mines Internet Radio also broadcasts the game and it is streamed live over the internet with up to date statistics.

For more information, or to follow the Mines Women's Basketball team go to www.oredigger.us/g.

The Orediggers will play Western New Mexico on Thursday, December 10 at New Mexico at 6 PM and Peru State College at home on Sunday, December 13 at 1:30 PM.



Above, Sean Armstrong (#5) posts a jump shot over a Western defender.

Below, CSM cheerleaders perform a stunt for the crowd.



ALL PHOTOS STEVEN WOOLDRIDGE / OREDIGGER

Below, Travis Geiger (#20) makes a lay-up.



Above, Dale Minschwaner (#23) and Gordon Galoway (#52) double-team a Western player.



Above, Savannah Afoa (#44) edges out a Western defender for a lay-up.

To the right, Angie Charchalis (#25) and Brecca Gaffney (#42) double-team a Western defender.

Below, Levi Hamilton (#40) steals a rebound from several players.



Above, Emily Dalton (#15) out jumps a Western defender for an easy 2-point shot.





Minds at Mines

Saving money during the holidays

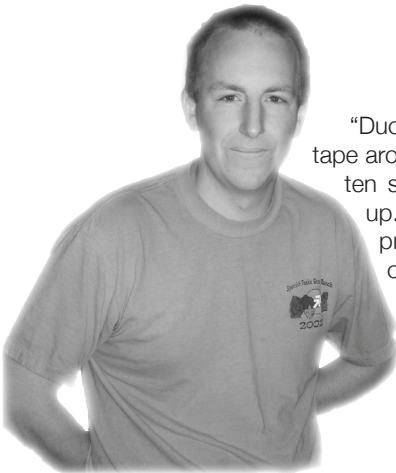
Roby Brost
Staff Writer

As the last bit of turkey is devoured, the familiar holiday music begins its repetitive cycle and stores begin advertising sales with smiling snowmen, grinning reindeer, merry menorahs, and beautiful blond young women with wreaths of candles. As one great deal after the other is advertised, perhaps in newspaper ads or shop windows, and that perfect mom-dad-boyfriend-girlfriend-sister-brother-aunt-uncle-second-cousin-five-times-removed-who-bought-that-great-sled-that-one-year-and-broke-his-arm gift is found, the realization hits. There is little left in the old billfold but pocket lint.

Rent, groceries, tuition, and that once every two month trip to the movies has left little room in the budget for that perfect gift that they will just love. Nonetheless, the holidays are here and a shortage of expendable income need not necessarily stop the joy of finding the gift a loved one will enjoy. Here on the beautiful Mines campus, many students have found ways to be as thrifty as they are brainy. Perhaps black Friday sales get them up at unheard-of hours, or that gift on layaway just went on sale, but cards, cookies, homemade calendars, mixed CDs, home movies, these are all great ideas from the Mines community. Students on the Mines campus have some great money saving tips on some cool holiday gifts.

"A kind of cool way to save money over the holidays is to make something yourself. There are all sorts of things you can do, but one of my favorites is to [make homemade] bread. It's a great gift for friends."

Lewis Patterson



"Duct tape! If you put enough duct tape around whatever it is that you've gotten someone, eventually they will give up. I think that I wrapped my Mom's presents that way one year. Not the colored duct tape, the plain silver stuff."

Brian Dreiling

"To save money over the holidays, it is always fun to make stuff by hand. I crochet stuff. You know; hats or scarves and stuff. Sometimes I make crocheted stuffed animals, like last year. Last year I made someone a crocheted Yoda."

Leanne Stember



ALL PHOTOS ROBY BROST / OREDIGGER

"You can get a watch box and fill it with quarters, or loose change, you know, however much you would like to spend, and then wrap it nicely. That way when they shake it, it is heavy and sounds interesting and they have the hardest time figuring out what you've gotten them. Another idea is to take bill money, and put it in the hole in a brick. Again, put it in a gift bag or something. They never guess what it is! The gift here is really the fun of always guessing wrong."

Nathan Weinstein

What's your Beef?



Jaime Thorpe
Student Body President

"Why can't the school match the design of existing buildings when making additions to them? Some examples are the elevator on the Green Center doesn't match the rest of the building and the proposed/ planned Brown Building addition looks like it belongs on the CTLM."

I emailed the campus architect, Chris Cocallas, for this one, and here is what he told me: "Unlike CU, whose buildings have a distinctive style in both design and materials, Mines is distinguished by the differences of the buildings. The buildings reflect the eras in which they were built. There are turn of the century buildings such as Guggenheim and Stratton; 50's and 60's buildings like the Green Center, Brown, and Meyer; and what I call contemporary buildings, such as the Rec Center, CTLM, the additions to Hill Hall and Alderson.

Today we are designing buildings that are more 'people friendly' and sustainable (LEED). This means, among many things, that they have more natural light (bigger windows, strategically placed) and try to make a connection to the exterior spaces. In the case of Brown, matching that architecture would not accomplish this. Also in the case of Brown, I think the buildings will be perceived as separate structures even though they are connected.

What we are doing to tie these new buildings to the campus will be the use of similar materials. Both the Residence Hall and Brown will use blond brick which is common throughout the campus. We also will incorporate similar patterns of brick that are seen on other campus buildings. This technique can be seen on the CTLM.

With regard to the Green Center

elevator, a component of this project was incorporating 'art' into the project. This is reflected in the tile work you see. I think this is what makes the elevator seem different. The art is a requirement of the state. If state funds are used, 1% of the construction budget must be spent on public art. The Green Center elevator was state funded.

Today we are designing buildings that are more "people friendly" and sustainable (LEED).

The residence hall uses no state funds, and thus does not have this component. Brown uses only a small amount of state funds and, as such, is only required to have an art budget equal to 1% of the state funds. We haven't decided yet what the art will be."

"The school is doing all of this construction, removing parking lots (i.e. Student Rec Center took over a large amount of street parking, new Brown Building construction will eliminate a parking lot, now they took away a parking lot to make temporary offices). Yes, they have added the Ford dealership - but there is already a big parking problem on campus, and I think it may be ignored because all of the office people have reserved spaces so they don't think about it. I have heard rumors that they want to make a parking garage where the hall of justice was, but nothing is happening. With our growing numbers on our already overcrowded campus - this is a big problem."

Before the construction begins

in January, the Hall of Justice will be operational, which provides about 100 new spots. As for the workers on the building project, they will be required to park in an area that is not being used for student parking currently, near the Jones Road Apartments. These are pretty much the only big improvements that will take place in the parking situation by the beginning of the spring semester.

Improvements that will be in effect by the beginning of the next fall semester are not all determined yet, but at the least there should be over 230 new parking spots in the Ford lot, which will be modified and expanded to accommodate many more vehicles. A new parking fee structure is being considered, and will likely allow more than just the

The administration has recognized the dire parking situation we are facing, and is taking steps to make some improvements by the beginning of the spring semester, and drastic improvements by the beginning of the next fall semester.

freshmen to park there. Additionally, parking consultants have been hired to determine how best to utilize the space we have, including

inefficiently used reserved parking places. The administration has recognized the dire parking situation we are facing, and is taking steps to make some improvements by the beginning of the spring semester, and drastic improvements by the beginning of the next fall semester. As for the parking garage, it was taken off the table recently, because it was not approved to go to bond; however, it is possible that it will be brought up again in the future.

Update: The pianos are scheduled to be tuned on December 10th!

Tim's two cents



Shorts in the wintertime?

Tim Weilert
Content Manager

I'm not feeling particularly opinionated about any one topic this week, so I'll dig out a bunch of small things that tend to get my goat.

Shorts in the wintertime. I'm a Colorado native, but that doesn't mean that I like snow or the cold. About this time every year people tend to change up their wardrobes to accommodate for the colder weather. Everyone, except for those guys you see running around in shorts. It'll be -40 degrees outside and I'll bump into a cargo-short-clad dude walking across campus. Here's how the dialogue usually breaks down:

Me: Cold enough for you?

Shorts: Nah, it could stand to be about 20 degrees cooler.

Me: Are you high?! Get some pants!

Ringtones. Admittedly this has become less of an issue in recent months, but I'm still always a little turned off by the person who has a ridiculous ringtone that lets it rip out during the middle of a lecture or test. The only reason telephones even had bells in the first place was because you could not carry the whole device and wires along with you. Cell phones have vibrated for a reason.

19th Street Cyclists. Fort Collins is a bike town. Boulder is a bike town. Golden is where people from Denver come to ride their bikes on the weekends. As someone who has played the roles of both

cyclist and motorist, I can say that 19th Street is not a great place to be riding. Unfortunately, given a sunny weekend 19th will be jam-packed with spandex-clad bikers aggressively competing for the narrow lanes along with motorists. Furthermore, why are there road islands on 19th? They seem to offer no logical use except to obstruct vision and narrow the road.

Editorials Policy

The Oredigger is a designated public forum. Editors have the authority to make all content decisions without censorship or advance approval and may edit submitted pieces for length so long as the original meaning of the piece is unchanged. Opinions contained within the Opinion Section do not necessarily reflect those of Colorado School of Mines or The Oredigger. The Oredigger does not accept submissions without identification and will consider all requests for anonymity in publication on a case-by-case basis. Submissions less than 300 words will receive preference.

Golden Historic Neighborhoods Association – Permit Parking Proposal

Department of Capital Planning and Construction

COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES™

(303) 273-3566 Phone
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GOLDEN, COLORADO 80401-1887

October 28, 2009

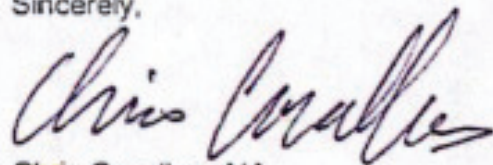
Mr. Tom Atkins
1110 12th Street
Golden CO 80401

Mr. Atkins,

The Colorado School of Mines understands that you and members of your neighborhood are seeking to establish permit parking in the area bounded by 13th Street, 11th Street, Maple Street and Arapahoe Street and the area bounded by 18th Street, 19th Street, Washington Street and Illinois Street.

The Colorado School of Mines understands that our students often park in these areas, impacting parking availability for the residents and their visitors. We support your efforts to establish permit parking that is acceptable to the neighborhood and the City of Golden.

Sincerely,



Chris Cocallas, AIA
Director of Capital Planning and Construction
Colorado School of Mines

Chris Cocallas's letter to the Golden Historic Neighborhood's Association regarding their new initiative to limit neighborhood parking around the Mines campus to Golden residents only.

Students need a voice in the parking debate

Zach Boerner
Copy Editor

Above is a letter from the Director of Capital Planning and Construction, Chris Cocallas. It effectively states that the Colorado School of Mines approves of any parking proposal that the City of Golden has.

This is unacceptable.

The faculty and staff of the school have designated parking, and many have spots reserved exclusively for them. The people on this campus who have parking problems are students, and were the students ever consulted? No.

The City of Golden started formulating a plan in October at the request of the residents of the Twelfth Street Historic District. The idea was to implement a residential parking permit so that Mines students could not park in the residential areas to the North and East of campus.

This was in part because Mines students were parking in front of fire hydrants, stop signs, and residents' driveways. While something should be done, jumping straight to, "We don't want students parking on our streets at all" instead of some middle ground, like towing illegally parked cars and putting the bill on the student's tuition bill, is absurd.

When ASCSM found out about it, they did the only thing that

could be done on short notice – they got a petition together. The e-mail was sent out to ASCSM representatives and members at 12:17 AM on the morning of the third, shortly after ASCSM Executive had been informed that the Golden City Council meeting had been changed. An e-mail was sent out shortly thereafter to the rest of the campus about the proposal, complete with links and a petition that could be signed. By that night, at 6:30 PM, over 625 physical signatures had been collected from members of the Mines campus. Many of the people whom I got to sign the petition either did not own cars nor park down there, but the fact that they had not been consulted on the proposal was enough to get them to oppose it.

The Mines campus has a voice, and when sufficiently roused, can act. If the parking proposal were to have gone through (it has been delayed due to the efforts of Damian Illing, Alec Westerman, Ashley Young, and Dan Baker), students would have started parking downtown, along Washington, in public parking lots, and probably in some very illegal places. Attempting to instate a residential parking permit in no way solves this problem, it just relocates it.

The fact that the Director of Capital Planning and Construction said this was okay without, as far as I can tell, consulting anyone on

campus is troublesome. Capital Planning and Construction's website has bullet points on how they obtain their various goals, and the first bullet point is "Collaborating with members of the Mines community and city and state officials." They clearly got the second part, by giving a green light to Golden, but failed miserably on the first part. This is not how the department that is meant to expand and construct campus is supposed to behave. In fact, I would go so far as to say this is the exact *opposite* of how that department is meant to behave.

If Cocallas rubber stamped this proposal that Golden put in front of him, when the campus is clearly in the middle of severe parking issues, how can we be sure that he will not do it with other projects? What is there to show that he will not just let Golden dictate what happens to our campus, without any opposition?

I'm willing to give Cocallas the benefit of the doubt. If he is willing to step forward and present his side of the argument, I will listen. However, ignoring students voices in an issue that clearly affects them does not reflect nicely on Mr. Cocallas, and I wonder how friendly students are meant to be with the campus administration when, clearly, portions of campus administration do not care about us.

Collaboration is key

Sara Post
Editor-in-Chief

Parking is perhaps the one issue at Mines that is guaranteed to generate passionate opinions from anyone you ask. The general consensus among students appears to be that it is almost impossible, on any given day during the work-week, to find a "decent" parking space on campus.

There are many problems with the parking situation on campus. The lots tend to fill up early in the day and stay full. Many students attempt to find street parking near their buildings to avoid walking two or three blocks from their parking space. A number of students also seek parking in the neighborhoods around campus.

The upcoming plans to begin construction in several parts of campus have the potential to greatly exacerbate the parking difficulties on campus. Some faculty lots will close, requiring other spaces to be reserved, and construction equipment and workers will have to go somewhere.

This is the situation with which the campus is faced. A proposal by the Golden Historic Neighborhood's Association to limit parking in the neighborhoods around campus has, not surprisingly, generated some heat from the student body.

ASCSM has made admirable efforts to go straight to the city council in dealing with this issue, and may have made progress this past Thursday. A lot has been

said, at this point, of the student viewpoint, especially in comparison to the position the administration appears to have taken (see above) and the position of the community.

I think it is important that a student makes the effort to see the issue from the viewpoint of Golden residents. Growing up in a neighborhood right across the street from a large high school that did not have anywhere near sufficient parking, I think I can place myself in a local's shoes.

Students at Mines, by and large, have no vested interest in the happiness of your average Golden resident. We are simply here to go to school for four to eight years and then move on. Local residents, on the other hand, have made the decision to live in Golden and will mostly outlast our tenures by quite a while. To them, the endless parade of students is a saga of loud parties and atrocious parking decisions.

As we attempt to address this issue, compromise is the only viable solution. ASCSM's request that the ban be implemented in June, as opposed to immediately, should be part of a greater Mines effort to be a friendly neighbor. It would only be fair, then, for the City of Golden to respond in kind and allow the process of give and take to continue until we have reached a solution that, at the very least, does not destroy the possibility of cooperative relations between the city and the school.



Fool's Gold

“So, this is Christmas; I hope you have run”

LAIS graduation requirements changed again 28% of December graduates are staying until May

Mike Stone
Senior Senior Expert

The Language Arts and International Studies (LAIS) Department changed graduation pathway requirements for the third time in four years last week. As of December 1st, when the changes went into effect, more than a quarter of the December graduating class will not be able to graduate due to a lack of credits and most of them don't know they're affected yet.

“While some students will need to stay another semester, we think it is of the utmost importance to implement these changes now,” said LAIS Department Head, Sally Strayfield when asked about the mid-semester changes. “It is unfortunate that they have to stay another semester, but their education in ethical standards and world issues will be paramount in making engineering decisions.”

Where most changes to graduation requirements are decided at least one year ahead of implementation, the LAIS Department sits in a curious hole that allows changes at any moment. The Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) certifies that School of Mines graduates have received a proper education in Engineering, but the LAIS department is mentioned nowhere in the accreditation papers available online. The LAIS Department is therefore strictly a requirement of the School of Mines institution and as such, they decide what the requirements are.

“This is killing me,” non-graduating senior Cory Lamb announced after hearing the news that he would have to stay another semester. “Just when I think I'm out of here, they reel you back in for more credits and more money. My dad's a lawyer, so we're thinking of taking legal action.”

Cory is not the only upset senior at Mines. Three Facebook groups have already been formed in the last week expressing distrust and frustration with the school and include members that are graduating in December, those that had Graduation taken away from them, as well as members from other undergraduate classes. These groups are targeted at informing students as soon as possible since some are still unaware.

“The reason there hasn't been a school-wide email is because, it is best to inform students at the last moment possible. Haven't you ever read the statistics about firing people on a Friday?” asked Strayfield. The statistics mentioned show that people are less likely to inflict repercussions on managers and coworkers if they are allowed to “cool down” over the weekend. It is the LAIS Department's view

that students won't act as severely if they can do the same over winter break.

School of Mines President, Will Noggins, revealed that, “the school stands by the decision of the LAIS Department. That's all I have to say but, off the record, this is going to be good for school funds and horrible for school parking. Seriously, don't mention that I said that. It's off the record.”

For those who have not been informed yet, there are two ways to find out if you are on the list of those affected by the requirement changes. As always, the Registrar's office is open from 8-4 every weekday for any questions about Graduation status. Additionally, students may look at their graduation audit on the Trailhead website. For those who are unlucky enough to find it, there is simply a small note at the bottom of the page in red font. “Due to LAIS graduation requirements, your sorry ass is staying here. Bye, bye Graduation.”

“I start my \$52,000 a year job in January. What am I supposed to tell them? ‘Sorry, I need to take another 400 level class?’” proposed non-graduating senior Colby Gordon. After Gordon informed the company that hired him, they swiftly gave the job to a CU Boulder graduate. “I knew I would hate this school from the moment I met my very first roommate. I thought I'd be able to get out of here without some embarrassing article the last week of the semester, but I guess that's gone now,” steamed Gordon.

When informed of Gordon's situation, Strayfield offered, “I am deeply sympathetic for Mr. Gordon, however; like I've said, his education is far more important. Perhaps he could get a job teaching Boulder students?”

Physics TAs to be replaced by robots

Janeen Neri
Artificial Completeness Expert

Last week, the Physics Department at the School of Mines announced a big change in the “studio” setup. Starting in fall of 2010, they will phase out human Teacher's Assistants (TAs) in favor of PHGNbot 9000s. Physics lecturer Patrick Rolle said, “there are advantages and disadvantages [to the switch], and right now, the advantages are kinda winning.”

The mechanized TAs are the result of “months of testing,” Rolle explained, “with a simulated physics studio, as well as with grading. We expected the studio part to be harder (human touch and that kind of thing), but it turned out that the assignment grading was much harder than expected for the computer to do correctly.”

Those participating in the robot studio typically found the replacements to be more helpful and faster responding than human TA's, largely because they did not cluster in the front of the room to chat about the nature of the universe. “With robots,” Rolle added, “you can fine-tune how ‘helpful’ you want them to be. A lot of the time human TAs will get frustrated and spit out the answer, which doesn't teach the students anything. Robots don't have problems with patience – they can repeat themselves over and over because, they don't care if the student isn't paying attention or even attempting to draw a picture.”

The robots also have the ability to instantly memorize instructions and equations, saving valuable time spent flipping between an equation sheet and the directions for the lab. As Rolle put it, “for obvious reasons, they don't have to use a multimeter to find faulty equipment.”

In studio, one of the major difficulties the robots have had are identifying who, exactly, was raising their hand. “Facial recognition is hard enough,” said Rolle, “and now we're trying to get computers to know the difference between subtly different arm positions. One means ‘I have a question’, but most of the others are students stretching or resting their hand on the physics 1 spring-hanging-thingies. -And then there are the students who do that stealth hand raise that means ‘I have a question, but I'm going to make it difficult to see for some reason.’ It's all very confusing, even for human TAs. Lucky for us, unlike with human TAs, robots can be equipped with death rays to vaporize repeat offenders. We found that solved the signal confusion pretty nicely.”

Among all the success of previous tests, the robots also shined in test proctoring; they were able to keep track of the time, catch cheaters, and remember all the instructions for filling out the scantrons without difficulty. The test class also found them to be less intimidating than human proctors. Additionally, the PHGNbots were not bothered by the tendency of the students to stare intently at them until the test

was passed out.

The only element of physics TA-ing that may have to be left to humans is grading. “Yeah...” Rolle said, “so, it turns out that we can't make the robots read handwriting. At least not engineering students' handwriting. Also, when Foobot here *can* read the homeworks, he has trouble responding to complaints about grades. He starts freaking out and endlessly repeating ‘I must follow the rubric. Your complaint is illogical,’ until he finally explodes.”

The department is considering having the graduate TA's do the grading under the new system, but they fear that this may make them exceed their maximum workload. “We have to keep them hired somehow,” Rolle explained, “but that much grading might, I don't know, mess up their manicure or something. We're still trying to decide whether to have them do it, or if we should keep hiring undergraduates to do the grading while paying the grad students ten times as much to test our MasseuseBots.”

The new TA's will start appearing in Physics 200 studios beginning in fall of 2010, with full adoption occurring over the following semesters. Current undergraduate TA's are advised to begin looking for other income sources. “It's entirely possible,” Rolle said, “that we're never gonna give y'all up completely, but that's not a certainty. Let's just say right now would be a really *bad* time to unionize.”



Stratton Hall: the scene of the crime.

IAN LITTMAN / OREDIGGER



Top ten things to do over break

Mike Stone
Content Manager

- 10) Become obese
- 9) Ski the top five mountains of Kansas
- 8) Rekindle an old high school flame
- 7) Remember why you broke up
- 6) Quickly extinguish the crazy-flame
- 5) Join the First Church of Cusack after seeing 2012
- 4) Invent the Ball-point Straw
- 3) Attend AA meetings after you accidentally reveal your college ways to your parents
- 2) Blame the healthcare crisis on the South since rednecks don't Darwin-ize themselves
- 1) Make the world's largest chocolate-covered grasshopper pie

swimming
thomas haldeman

bowling
b3

disc golf
drew meyer
elizabeth major

racquetball
mike eyser

miguel yunes

chelsea newgord

the seamen

dana morris

flag football

softball

tennis

shelby hollmaier

tyler robbins

thomas brenner

protonators

hilary stamp

grass volleyball
awesome co-rec

awesome men's

jilene oakley

dodgeball

indoor soccer

volleyball

c squad

chess
kris maclellan

3v3 basketball
X-factor

badminton

team win

ku ku kachoo

whiffle ball

fantastic contraption

<http://recsports.mines.edu>

Fall 09 CHAMPS